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SERIAL NO. 09/556,143
PATENT

CURRENT CLAIMS

A copy of the claims is provided below for the convenience of the Examiner. The claims are not amended.

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled).

40. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a laser to treat one of: presbyopia, hyperopia, primary open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension, said method comprising the step of:

irradiating a sclera of an eye in a region of a ciliary body to thereby weaken the sclera of the eye and increase an effective working distance of a ciliary muscle of the eye;

wherein irradiating the sclera comprises reducing a thickness of the sclera in the region of the ciliary body without forming an opening completely through the sclera.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises the step of abrading the sclera with laser irradiation.

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42. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises the step of ablating the sclera with laser irradiation.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises the step of incising the sclera with laser irradiation.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises the step of decomposing partially collagen fibers in the sclera.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises the step of incising at least a portion of the sclera at select angles with laser irradiation.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of operation set forth in Claim 41 wherein said step of irradiating the sclera of the eye in the region of the ciliary body further comprises increasing a diameter of the sclera overlying the ciliary body.

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47. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
irradiating a sclera of an eye in a region of a ciliary body of the eye to increase an effective working distance of a ciliary muscle of the eye;
wherein irradiating the sclera comprises reducing a thickness of the sclera in the region of the ciliary body without forming an opening completely through the sclera.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises abrading the sclera with laser irradiation.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises ablating the sclera with laser irradiation.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises incising the sclera with laser irradiation.
51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises incising at least a portion of the sclera at select angles with laser irradiation.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises decomposing partially collagen fibers in the sclera.

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53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein irradiating the sclera comprises increasing a diameter of the sclera overlying the ciliary body.

54. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
providing a laser operable to irradiate a sclera of an eye in a region of a ciliary body of the eye; and
operating the laser to irradiate the sclera in the region of the ciliary body to increase an effective working distance of a ciliary muscle of the eye;
wherein operating the laser to irradiate the sclera in the region of the ciliary body comprises reducing a thickness of the sclera in the region of the ciliary body without forming an opening completely through the sclera.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the laser is operable to abrade the sclera.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the laser is operable to ablate the sclera.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the laser is operable to incise the sclera.

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58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the laser is operable to incise at least a portion of the sclera at select angles with laser irradiation.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the laser comprises at least one of: a carbon dioxide laser, a helium-neon laser, a helium-cadmium laser, an argon ion laser, a krypton ion laser, a xenon laser, a nitrous oxide laser, an iodine laser, a holmium doped yttrium-aluminum garnet (YAG) laser, an excimer laser, a chemical laser, a harmonically oscillated laser, a dye laser, a nitrogen laser, a neodymium laser, an erbium laser, a ruby laser, a titanium-sapphire laser, and a diode laser.